With the power of flowers...

...a heroine's strength increases

BIG BREAK! A WHOLEHEARTED PARADOX ♥ LOVE

ラストゲーム

LAST GAME

GAME 48

Amano Shinobu

Last Game

— Amano Shinobu —

Chapter 48

SCANNER	BakaShin
TRANSLATOR	DoS
PROOFREADER	naveyas
CLEANER/REDRAWER	lavenderscent
TYPESETTER	Anndette
QUALITY-CHECKER	naveyas

RATTLE

FWAP

WELCO...

....?!

DAMMIT... I FORGOT I HAD MY PART-TIME JOB TODAY...!

UH, GEEZ, WHAT IS THAT OLD MAN THINKING...?!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT OLD MAN WOULD GO AS FAR AS FINDING OUT THE SPECIFIC DATE AND TIME...!

THEN, GOOD LUCK AT WORK.

HI!

THIS MORNING

SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?!

THAT GIRL DOESN'T SUIT YOU AT ALL!

EVEN SO, HOW DID HE SENSE IT...?

THAT HAPPENS A LOT IN DRAMAS...

TAMAKI HASN'T CONSIDERED THAT KUJOU DOESN'T SUIT HIM.

I WANTED TO ASK HIM WHEN YOU'RE HERE...

...?!

I HAD JUST THOUGHT YOU LOOK LIKE KUJOU-SAN WORKING HARD SHOW ME AROUND. MAYBE...

I APOLOGIZE, KUJOU-SAN.

YOU'RE MAKING KUJOU-DO TOO MU...

MOREOVER, I'M ACTING SELFISHLY AND ASKED TOO MUCH OF YOU, KUJOU-SAN...

AND MY SON HAS BEEN ACTING COLD...

LATELY, I HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN ABLE TO GO OUT WITH MY DAUGHTER, RYOUKO...

NOT AT ALL...

WHY ARE YOU SO CONSIDERATE OF EVERYBODY EXCEPT FOR ME?

THAT'S NOT A GOOD ATTITUDE TO HAVE TOWARDS YOUR FATHER.

YANAGI.

I'M FINE WITH ACCOMPANYING HIM ANYWHERE.

HUR, RY, UP, AND GO HOME!

I WONDER IF HIS RIGHT ARM HURTS?

I'LL HAVE BLACK COFFEE.

OF COURSE.

I'D LIKE BLACK TEA, PLEASE.

GET WELL SOON

THESE TWO REALLY CAN'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER

I HEARD THAT PROFITS HAVE INCREASED SINCE YANAGI WORKED HERE.

EVEN SO, NAOTO ISN'T GRATEFUL TO ME AND HIS MOTHER THAT HE WAS BORN WITH THAT FACE.

THIS REALLY SUITS HIM, DOESN'T IT?

Hoho!

OH?

...YANAGI IS

GOOD AT DEALING WITH PEOPLE.

...I SEE.

I THINK THAT HE'S HAPPY WHEN HE TENDS TO CUSTOMERS.

STARE

THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I'VE CONSIDERED BEFORE.

HIS LOOKS?

HOW ABOUT YOU, KUJOU-SAN?

I ASSUME THAT A LOT OF THE FEMALE GUESTS ARE ATTRACTED TO HIS LOOKS.

D-COULD IT BE THAT I LOOK COOL WHEN I WORK...?!

RIHT FOR SOME REASON, HAS KUZUI BEEN DOING IT FOR A WHILE NOW?!

STARE

CA... CAN'T BE HELPED, HUH...

HEH

SIGH...

S... IS THAT SO...?

kohkohn

I'M TOO USED TO SEEING HIM, SO I DON'T REALLY FEEL ANYTHING SPECIAL.

PLEASE DON'T COME AGAIN.

I WONDER IF I SHOULD COME HERE MORE OFTEN?

KUKUKU...

WAI— WHERE ARE YOU GOING NOW?!

NOW SHALL WE GO NEXT?

WHERE SHALL WE GO NEXT?

KUJOU-SAN.

...THIS MAN IS...

...THIS RESTAURANT HAS A VERY NICE ATMOSPHERE, DOESN'T IT?

YANAGI'S FATHER.

IS HE DOING AN EXTREME BACKGROUND CHECK?

LET'S SEE...

I WANT TO TRY AND SEE THE PLACES KUJOU-SAN USUALLY GOES TO.

bye-bye~

GODDAMNIT!!

Welcome

BATTLE

BUT IN THE END I COULDN'T FIND THE PERFECT BLANKET.

...!!

YANAGI, SEE YOU LATER.

NAOTO, YOU STILL HAVE WORK, RIGHT?

M-M-ME... TOO...

CAN YOU SHOW ME AROUND?

YEAH, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

IS THAT OKAY?

THE PLACES I USUALLY GO TO...

WE'LL JUST TURN RIGHT AND GO ACROSS THAT WALKWAY...

LET'S GO.

I UNDER- STAND.

LIFT

?!

THUD

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

SHALL I CARRY YOUR LUGGA...

?!

OH, MY...

AH.

I'LL CARRY IT.

R-RIGHT!

NOW THEN, SHALL WE GO?

THANK YOU.

CAN YOU WALK?

YOU'RE AMAZING, HUH?

SHOCKED

THE FATHER FELT THE SAME THING THAT HIS SON DID THE OTHER DAY.

THIS IS THE PLACE.

BAM!

YES. ...A SUPER-MARKET, HUH?

I SEE. THE SUPERMARKET HERE OFFERS LIMITED-TIME SALES.

WHILE THIS ONE SELLS AFFORDABLE VEGETABLES.

NEXT, THIS SUPERMARKET HAS FRESH MEAT.

KUJOU-SAN, YOU'RE WELL-INFORMED ABOUT SUPERMARKETS, AREN'T YOU?

KU...

ON THE OTHER HAND, THIS SUPER-MARKET HAS FRESH FISH THAT...

WHY DOES SHE LOOK SO HAPPY...?

I'M NOT REALLY...

I'M—

PAT

There must be a place where we can get tea!

Fum, I'm pretty tired from walking...

Then, next we can go to the dry goods store in the shopping district—

That's got—

There's another supermarket that's about a thirty minute walk from—

Is that enough supermarkets?!

RUN-DOWN

In that case...

...here?

Their TANUKI is delicious.

It's a confectionery shop.

* TEN: TANUKI IS A FISH-SHAPED CAKE, USUALLY FILLED WITH RED BEAN PASTE

BRRING

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I CAN'T DECIDE BETWEEN TSUBLIN OR WITCH...

THIS GIRL IS DIFFERENT...

STILL...

IT SEEMS THAT SHE PROBABLY REALLY DOESN'T CARE WHICH ONE SHE WOULD CHOOSE.

SHE LIKES SUPERNAT-URALS AND THIS SHOP.

EXCUSE ME, CAN'T I HAVE ONE TSUBLIN AND ONE WATCHA?

EH!

WE CAN EAT HALF OF EACH ONE.

WELL THEN, I'LL ORDER BOTH OF THEM.

HERE, IT'S FINE.

HAVE A SEAT.

UM, BUT...

No waaay I wanna eat bececcoo!!!

THAT GIRL WOULD ALWAYS INSIST THAT SHE WANTED TO EAT BOTH.

IN THE PAST, RYOUKO AND I WOULD ALWAYS SPLIT FOOD LIKE THIS.

HER MOTHER WOULD OFTEN GET ANGRY.

BUT I'D HAVE FUN LISTENING TO MY DAUGH- TER'S SELFISH- NESS.

ALL RIGHT, HERE YOU GO.

...IT'S DELICIOUS.

...AHH.

THAT REMINDS ME, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A FATHER.

CHOMP

YES.

WHERE IS IT..?

MUNCH MUNCH

THE PLACE WHERE KUJOU WENT...

HE TOLD ME WHEN HIS SHIFT ENDS, SO IT'S ALL RIGHT.

YANAGI ISN'T HERE YET...

HE DID, WHEN WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.

TODAY WAS REALLY REFRESHING.

THANK YOU.

IT WAS NOTHING...

AFTER SCHOOL, I'D HELP YANAGI WITH HIS STUDIES.

HAS NAOTO BEEN TO THE SUPERMARKET WITH YOU?

OH?

THEN WE'D GO HOME TOGETHER.

BUT WHEN I ASKED HIM TO GET WELSH ONIONS FOR THE "NABE"* HE NAME* WAS MAKING...

IT SEEMED LIKE YANAGI DIDN'T LIKE GOING TO THE SUPER-MARKET,

SO IT WAS THIS BOY AND NAOTO'S FIRST PLACE.

IN THE PAST, HE'D SAID HE'D GO SHOPPING WHENEVER WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FOOD.

*THE NAME ARE JAPANESE HOT POT DISHES

AHH... THAT'S BECAUSE WE ENTRUSTED YAE-SAN TO DO ALL THE COOKING IN OUR HOUSE...

ARE ALL OF THESE WELSH ONIONS?

HE SURPRISED ME BY BRINGING SHALLOTS, SCALLIONS, ONIONS, AND CHIVES.

I'd almost forgotten that memory.

This is horrible.

HOW MUCH IS "ENOUGH"?

WHAT'S "JUST A LITTLE BIT"?

TASTE IT UNTIL IT SEEMS LIKE THERE'S ENOUGH...

JUST A LITTLE BIT OF SALT...

RECENTLY, IT SEEMS HE HAS TAKEN UP COOKING, LITTLE BY LITTLE.

I'M HANGING UP.

I'VE BEEN TEACHING HIM RECIPES OVER THE PHONE.

IRRITATED

EVEN THOUGH I TELL HIM THAT HE'LL KNOW THE AMOUNT TO USE IF HE LOOKS AT THE RECIPE...

WHAT AN ANNOYANCE.

HE STILL CALLS ME.

...WEIRD, ISN'T IT?

98

EH.

AH.

THAT'S...

...YOU LIKE NAOTO, DON'T YOU?

I SEE.

...YES.

CERTAINLY, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN FASCINATED KNOWING THAT.

EH...

ON THE OTHER HAND, MONEY ASIDE, NAOTO IS THE NOBLE HEIR OF THE YANASI RESORT.

I DEEM YOU HAVE QUITE A SIMPLE LIFE, DON'T YOU?

JUST FROM WHAT I SAW TODAY.

YOU... COULD SAY THAT.

OF COURSE,

I DON'T PLAN ON ACCUSING YOU.

DON'T
YOU THINK THAT—

AN OJOU-SAN*
FROM AN EXCEL-
LENT PEDIGREE
WOULD BE MORE
SUITABLE FOR
NAOTO?

THERE'S
JUST

A BALANCE TO
BE MAINTAINED
IN THIS WORLD.

!

*TDS: AN OJOU-SAN USUALLY REFERS TO A YOUNG LADY FROM A RESPECTABLE AND WEALTHY FAMILY.

GYU♥

EH.

HOW UNEX-
PECTED...

...NOW THAT
YOU MENTION
IT, YANAGI IS
RICH, HUH.

SO THAT'S
ANOTHER WAY
TO LOOK AT
IT...

!

I STILL
DON'T UNDER-
STAND.

WHO IN
THE WORLD
DECIDES
THAT?

WHAT IN
THE WORLD
DO THOSE
MEAN?

—BALANCE

AND
SUITABILITY.

AH, BUT TO START WITH, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON YANAGI LIKES. HOW CAN I DO MY VERY BEST WHEN I DON'T KNOW THAT? OH, GOSH.

I JUST

WANT TO DO MY VERY BEST

TO BECOME A PERSON THAT YANAGI WILL COME TO LIKE.

PFFT!

EH.

NO,

I APOLO-GIZE.

I SAID THAT BECAUSE I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF REACTION YOU'D HAVE.

?

THAT'S SO...

SO YOU LIKE NAOTO IN THIS WAY...

I SEE...

I'M NOT AGAINST

YOUR FEELINGS.

OOPS, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.

STOMP STOMP STOMP

I THINK THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THAT YOU CAN DO,

SO I WANT YOU TO DO YOUR BEST.

YES, SIR...

RATTLE

—KUJOU!

HE DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING WEIRD,
DID HE?

YANASI.

I HAVE A
FEELING THAT
THINGS ARE
GOING TO GET
INTERESTING
NOW.

MY, MY.
HE'S
A BRAT.

THEN,
STOP THIS
ACT NOW!

I WANT TO
CONFIDE IN
HER A BIT
MORE.

GUARD

NOW THEN, SHOULDN'T WE START DINNER?

—I'M SORRY THAT YOU HAD TO TAKE ME HOME.

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE...

OOPS, I HAVE A PHONE CALL. EXCUSE ME FOR A BIT.

S-p-a-
So delicious...!

HE REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WEIRD...

—KUJOU.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY.

I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE THANKING YOU FOR EVERYTHING.

HUH? TAIYAKI?

WE SHARED TAIYAKI.

YUP.

IF THERE COMES A CHANCE,

I WAS KINDA HAPPY.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO OUT AGAIN?

HI, SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT.

WHETHER THEY'RE GOOD OR BAD, SEEM TO HAVE A STRONG EFFECT ON YOU.

...HER WORDS...

HOWEVER, I DON'T INTEND TO FORCE YOU.

YOUR FEELINGS ARE IM- PORTANT, YOU.

WHAT WILL YOU DO? NAOTO.

WHATEVER YOUR DECISION WILL BE.

WELL, YOU DON'T NEED TO ANSWER ME HERE AND NOW.

I'LL STILL BE HERE IN JAPAN FOR A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.

I'LL ACCEPT IT.

BUT IF YOU DO DECIDE TO FOLLOW MY FOOT- STEPS,

I'LL GIVE YOU STRICT GUIDANCE.

I WILL...

FOR A SHORT WHILE ACTIVITY WILL BE TAKING PLACE THERE.

NOW, WE'RE GOING TO ESTABLISH MORE PARTNERSHIPS WITH COMPANIES IN AMERICA.

SO FAR WE'VE BEEN EXPANDING TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL ASIA.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING MY FOOTSTEPS,

NAOTO,

COMING WITH ME TO AMERICA.

YOU'LL BE